

**/INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Sheet

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of 6

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/566,263
Filing Date	September 28, 2006
First Named Inventor	Jeffrey RUBERTI
Art Unit	1796
Examiner Name	William K. CHEUNG
Attorney Docket Number	20780-016

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² of Patent	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	A1	3,875,302	04/01/1975	Inoue	
	A2	4,472,542	09/18/1984	Nambu	
	A3	4,663,358	05/05/1987	Hyon	
	A4	4,772,287	09/20/1988	Ray	
	A5	4,904,260	02/27/1990	Stoy	
	A6	5,047,055	09/10/1991	Bao	
	A7	5,071,437	12/10/1991	Steffee	
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	A11	5,705,296	01/06/1998	Kamauchi	
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	A17	6,264,695	07/24/2001	Stoy	
	A18	6,268,405	07/31/2001	Yao	
	A19	2004/0171740	09/02/2004	Ruberti	
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	B1	WO 01/12107 A1	02/22/2001	LAMBRECHT	English	
	B2	WO 02/054978 A2	07/18/2002	LAMBRECHT	English	
	B3	JP 04 338326A	11/25/1992	OKAMURA	W/English Translation	
	B4	JP 03215417A	09/20/1991	YAMAUCHI et al.	W/English Translation	
	B5	EP 1229873	08/14/2002	MARCOLONGO	English	

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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner initials*	Cite No. ²	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			T ²
C1	AAOS, Musculoskeletal Conditions in the U.S., Feb. 1992-1988, 1992, AAOS				
C2	Bao, Q.B., & Yuan, H. A., "Nucleus Replacement," Spine, Vol. 27, No. 11, 2002, 1245-1247				
C3	Bao, Q. & Yuan, H.A. "Prosthetic Disc Replacement: The Future?," Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, No. 394, pp 139-145, 2002				
C4	Zeegers, W. S., et al. "Artificial disc replacement with the modular type SB Charit III: 2-year results in 50 prospectively studied patients," Eur Spine J, 8:210-217, 1999				
C5	Wiesel, S.W. et al, "Industrial Low-Back Pain-A Prospective Evaluation of a Standardized Diagnostic and Treatment Protocol," SPINE, Vol. 9, No. 2, 199-203, 1984				
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C7	Bao, Q. et al, "The artificial disc: theory, design and materials," Biomaterials Vol. 17, No. 12, (1996) 1157-1167				
C8	Urushizaki, F. et al, "Swelling and mechanical properties of poly(vinyl alcohol) hydrogels," International Journal of Pharmaceutics, 58 135-142, 1990				
C9	UPMC Surgeons Implanting Metal Cages into the Spine to Treat Chronic Low Back Pain, Neurosurgery News, 1999, University of Pittsburgh				
C10	Takeshita, H. et al, "Gelation Process and Phase Separation of PVA Solutions as Studied by a Light Scattering Technique," Macromolecules 32, 7815-7819, 1999				
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C15	Lozinsky, V. I. et al, "Swelling behavior of poly(vinyl alcohol) cryogels employed as matrices for cell immobilization," Enzyme Microb. Technol., Vol. 18, 561-569, 1996				
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Sheet	3	of	6	Attorney Docket Number	20780-016
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

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	C17	Kawanishi K. et al, "Thermodynamic consideration of the sol-gel transition in polymer solutions," 35 th Annual Meeting of the Society of Polymer Science, Japan, 1986	
	C18	"New Implants Offer Relief of Spine" 2001, Medical Device and Diagnostic Industry	
	C19	Takeshita, H., et al, "Spinodal Decomposition and Syneresis of PVA Gel," Macromolecules 2001, 34, 7894-7898	
	C20	Dilwan, A. D. et al, "Current Concepts in Intervertebral Disk Restoration," Tissue Engineering in Orthopedic Surgery, Vol. 31, No. 3, pp 453-464, July 2000	
	C21	Peppas, N. A. et al, "Physicochemical Foundations and Structural Design of Hydrogels in Medicine and Biology," Annu. Rev. Biomed. Eng., 02:9-20, 2000	
	C22	Willcox, P. J., et al, "Microstructure of Poly(vinyl alcohol) Hydrogels Produced by Freeze/Thaw Cycling," Journal of Polymer Science: Part B: Polymer Physics, Vol. 37, 3438-3454 (1999)	
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	C25	Bray, J.C. & Merrill, E. W., "Poly(vinyl Alcohol) Hydrogels. Formation by Electron Beam Irradiation of Aqueous Solutions and Subsequent Crystallization," Journal of Applied Polymer Science, Vol. 17, pp 3779-3794, 1973	
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	C29	Griffith, S. L. et al, "A Multicenter Retrospective Study of the Clinical Results of the LINK® SB Charite Intervertebral Prosthesis," SPINE, Vol. 19, No. 16, 1842-1849, 1994	
	C30	Flory, P.J., "Principles of Polymer Chemistry," 1953, Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press	
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Sheet	4	of	6	Filing Date	September 28, 2006
				First Named Inventor	Jeffrey RUBERTI
				Art Unit	1796
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	C32	Choi, J. H., et al., "Rheological Properties of Syndiotacticity-Rich Ultrahigh Molecular Weight Poly(vinyl alcohol) Dilute Solution," <i>Journal of Applied Polymer Science</i> , Vol. 82, 569-576 (2001)			
	C33	Doehring, T.C. et al., "Cyclic Load-Displacement Characteristics of Lumbar Functional Spinal Units, 46 th Annual Meeting, Orthopaedic Research Society, March 12-15, 2000			
	C34	Damshkalin, L. G., et al., "Study of Cryostructurization of Polymer Systems. XV. Freeze-Thaw-Induced Formation of Cryoprecipitate Matter from Low-Concentrated Aqueous Solutions of Poly(vinyl alcohol), <i>Journal of Applied Polymer Science</i> , Vol. 74, 1978-1986 (1999)			
	C35	Darwis, D., et al. "Characterization of poly(vinyl alcohol) hydrogel for prosthetic intervertebral disc nucleus," <i>Radiation Physics and Chemistry</i> 63 (2002) 539-542			
	C36	Gomes, K. et al., "The Effect of Dehydration History on Associating Hydrogels for Nucleus Pulpous Replacement," <i>Society for Biomaterials, 28th Annual Meeting Transactions</i> , 2002			
	C37	Hassan C., M. et al, "Diffusional characteristics of freeze/thawed poly(vinyl alcohol) hydrogels: Applications to protein controlled release from multilaminate devices," <i>European Journal of Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics</i> 49 (2000) 161-165			
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	C41	Nakane, K., et al., "Properties and Structure of Poly(vinyl alcohol)/Silica Composites, <i>Journal of Applied Polymer Science</i> , Vol. 74, 133-138 (1999)			
	C42	Hassan, C., M. et al., "Modeling of crystal dissolution of poly(vinyl alcohol) gels produced by freezing/thawing process," <i>Polymer</i> 41 (2000) 6729-6739			

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	C43	Hickey, A. S. & Peppas N.A., "Solute diffusion in poly(vinyl alcohol)/poly(acrylic acid) composite membranes prepared by freezing/thawing techniques," <i>Polymer</i> , Vol. 38 No. 24 1997 5931-5936				
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	C53	Strawhecker, K.E. & Manias E., "AFM of Poly(vinyl alcohol) Crystals Next to an Inorganic Surface," <i>Macromolecules</i> , 2001, 34, 8475-8482				
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	C55	Takahashi, N., et al, "Effects of cononsolvency on gelation of poly(vinyl alcohol) in mixed solvents of dimethyl sulfoxide and water," <i>Polymer</i> 44 (2003) 4075-4078				

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